

activism. Between them, they have dedicated almost 100 years to meeting the needs to Tucson's children, minorities, elderly, chronically ill, and economically disadvantaged. Additionally, both women have worked diligently to improve educational opportunities and cultural enrichment in Southern Arizona.

To list their many memberships, awards, and recognitions of accomplishment would take several pages. Such a listing, although most impressive, would not truly convey the magnitude of their tenacity, positive attitude and goodwill toward others. Their wit, charm, and warmth are legendary and have been their greatest weapons in their fight to make life better for others. These ladies have earned the respect and admiration of all work for social justice and aiding those in need.

These women have shown what can be accomplished when compassion, empathy and kindness transcend the family unit and are shared with the community. I am proud that this mother-daughter team has been such an ambassador of caring for the Tucson, Pima County and Southern Arizona community.

I applaud The Arthritis Foundation for recognizing the outstanding efforts of these amazing women and for designating Ms. Esther Don Tang and Ms. Patti Tang Crowley as its 1999 Humanitarian Award recipients. In closing, I commend these ladies for all of their admirable accomplishments and especially their societal contributions.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE OF JANE WHITAKER

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, the foundation of every community is built by those who give of themselves to others. Today, I would like to pay tribute to one such worker who has served the community of Glendale, California for more than thirty years—Jane Whitaker.

Jane moved to Glendale in 1969 with her young family and immediately became an active member of the community. For three decades, she has set the standard in our community for service and sacrifice.

Jane has been an active member of the California Parent Teacher Association for many years. She was elected to the Glendale Unified School District Board of Education in 1981 and served until 1997. Three years of her tenure she lead the board as its president.

During her tenure on the Glendale School Board, Jane was instrumental in developing many innovative programs, including Glendale Healthy Kids, a collaborative effort between the school district, local hospitals and health care professionals to provide students with medical and dental care without cost.

In addition, Jane gave her time and her love to numerous community organizations including the YMCA, the Greater Glendale Child Care Council, the Presidents Advisory Council of Glendale and the Glendale Neighborhood Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Glendale, California home. What makes Glendale so

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

welcoming as a hometown is the caliber of its residents. Jane Whitaker proudly displays this tradition—with her deeds—and I ask my colleagues here today to join me in saluting her lifetime of service, dedication and commitment to our community.

TRIBUTE TO LABOR LEADER HENRY NICHOLAS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor labor leader Henry Nicholas. Henry Nicholas has emerged as a national spokesman in the struggle to preserve quality patient care and is regarded as one of the most influential African-American leaders in Pennsylvania.

Born in rural Fayette, MS, in 1936, Henry Nicholas is a man representative of vision, advocacy, and triumph. After leaving the Deep South while still a young man, Nicholas moved to New York City where he began working as a hospital orderly in 1957. Two years later Nicholas was organizing his coworkers into what was then Local 1199 of the Drug and Hospitals Employees Union. That same year, he played a key role in the strike of hospital union workers that resulted in union contracts for thousands of New York City hospital employees.

While he started as a union volunteer, in 1961 Nicholas was named a union organizer and quickly moved up the union ranks. Assistant director of the 1199 National Organizing Committee, Nicholas led successful hospital workers, organizing campaigns in Pittsburgh, Ohio, and Detroit. He also directed a 113-day hospital strike in Charleston, SC, which was regarded as a national landmark in the struggle for civil rights for African-Americans. As a direct result of that success, the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees was established and Nicholas was elected its first secretary-treasurer.

Two years after he arrived in Philadelphia with the task of organizing health care workers, he won contracts for over 5,000 employees working in the city's major health care institutions. In 1974, due to the success of the Nicholas' organizing efforts, District 1199C, the Philadelphia local of the national union, was officially chartered and Nicholas was elected president. Today 1199C represents more than 15,000 hospital and health care workers in 110 health care institutions in the greater Philadelphia area, and five counties in southern New Jersey. As a result of the phenomenal growth of District 1199C, the union created a training and upgrading program for health care employees that has become a national model.

September 22, 1999

IN HONOR OF THE OUR LADY OF
MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH PARISH
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church as it celebrates its 50th anniversary of the opening and building of the parish elementary school on September 22, 1999.

On September 6, 1949, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church opened its doors to the Cleveland community under the leadership of its first pastor, Father Vincent Caruso, O.de M. Father Vincent Caruso, who on this day celebrates his 94th birthday, was born on September 22, 1905 in Italy. He was ordained as a Priest on September 24, 1927 in Orvieto, Italy. He then made the long journey across the Atlantic to the United States in 1927 and was assigned to Saint Rocco where he soon began to take on more responsibility at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Father Vincent Caruso, realized the need for a Catholic School to teach children of the parish neighborhood about the Gospel and give them a solid education so that they may grow up to live and know their human dignity. Father Vincent Caruso continued his service to the community which culminated in the opening of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel School for elementary students on September 6, 1949.

Trinitarians Sister Mary Valentine Delfino was the first principal of the school and has continued teaching and serving children ever since. She has taught all grades from 1 to 7. Sister Valentine Delfino was also a principal and teacher at St. Marian's in Cleveland, at Mother of Divine Grace in Philadelphia, PA and at Saint Rocco's in Cleveland. She is presently the regional delegate for the Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity in the USA, residing at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Euclid, OH.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring Father Vincent Caruso and Sister Mary Valentine Delfino for their leadership and dedication to the children and the families of the Cleveland area. Their piety, sincerity and devoted service to God and to the local parish enabled the expansion and development of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Grade School which now celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

UKRAINE ON THE EVE OF ELECTIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Ukraine's presidential elections will be held in a little over a month, on October 31. These elections will be an important indicator in charting Ukraine's course over the next 4 years. The stakes are high. Will Ukraine continue to move—even if at a slow and inconsistent pace—in the direction of the supremacy of law over politics, a market economy,

and integration with the Euro-Atlantic community? Or will Ukraine regress in the direction of the closed economic and political system that existed during Soviet times? Clearly, the outcome of the elections will have significant implications for United States policy toward Ukraine.

Despite the many internal and external positive changes that have occurred in Ukraine since its independence in 1991, including progress in creating a democratic, tolerant society and the significant role played in the stability and security of Europe, Ukraine still has a long way to go in building a sustainable democracy underpinned by the rule of law. Specifically, Ukraine needs to improve its judiciary and criminal justice system, reduce bureaucratic arbitrariness and rid itself of the stifling menace of corruption. Indeed, corruption is exacting a huge toll on Ukrainian institutions, eroding confidence in government and support for economic reforms, and discouraging domestic and foreign investment.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about reports of violations in the conduct of the election campaign, including in the signature-gathering process and inappropriate meddling by officials, especially on the local level. I am also troubled by governmental actions against the free media, including the recent seizure of bank accounts of STB independent television and the suspension of four independent television stations in Crimea. The harassment of the print and electronic media is inconsistent with OSCE commitments. It undermines Ukraine's overall positive reputation with respect to human rights and democracy, including its generally positive record in previous elections.

The Helsinki Commission, which I chair, was in the forefront of supporting respect for human rights and self-determination in Ukraine during the dark days of Soviet rule. We have viewed—and still view—Ukraine's independence as a milestone in Europe's history. However, in order to consolidate its independence and reinforce internal cohesion, Ukraine needs to speed its transition to democracy and market economy. It needs to work toward greater compliance with OSCE standards and norms. The OSCE Office for Project Coordination in Ukraine can be a useful tool to assist Ukraine in this regard and I hope that the Ukrainian government will take advantage of and benefit from the OSCE presence.

Despite frustrations with certain aspects of Ukraine's reality, it is important for both the Congress and the Executive Branch to continue to support an independent, democratic Ukraine, both in terms of policies designed to strengthen United States-Ukraine relations, as well as with assistance designed to genuinely strengthen democratic and free-market development. The key is to be patient, but persistent, in encouraging progress.

THANK YOU, HARRY MOSGROVE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pause a moment to recognize a man who has

contributed a great deal to the community of Colorado. The man is Harry Mosgrove. Harry has been president and CEO of Copper Mountain Ski Resort since 1987. In the 12 years since he took this office Copper Mountain has enjoyed great success. The 1995–96 ski season was their best ever. They have also begun many programs, such as “West Fest”, and building projects that have already enhanced the services Copper Mountain offers its guests. Perhaps his most significant contribution was to help Copper Mountain smoothly join with Intrawest, its new parent company. Now, after 18 successful years with Copper Mountain, Mr. Mosgrove has announced his retirement. He is getting ready to be a grandfather and is going to take the time for a well-deserved rest.

The important thing about Mr. Mosgrove, however, is that he didn't start at the top. In 1981 he came on to the team as manager of real estate. From there he moved to the positions of executive vice president and chief operating officer. He has also served as chairman of Colorado Ski Country USA. He will continue to be an active member of the executive committee and the board of directors as well.

Harry Mosgrove has been called a “guiding light” and has also been said to be “a man of great integrity and vision.” Business and our communities as a whole could use more people with Harry Mosgrove's attributes. For all of these reasons, I am offering my congratulations to Harry Mosgrove on his retirement but, more than that, I am thanking him for all he has done throughout his years of service. I know that he will be missed at Copper Mountain and I wish him well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker due to mechanical difficulties with my flight from my district I missed rollcall vote 427. Had I been present I would have voted “aye.”

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2898

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, H.R. 2898, which lowers the minimum age for individuals without children to be eligible for the earned income tax credit to 21 years-of-age.

The earned income tax credit was established in 1975 to provide cash aid to working parents with low incomes who care for dependent children. In 1994, this credit was extended to include low-income workers with no children.

Many workers today struggle to make a living wage. This credit provides these workers with a financial boost to help them in their

struggles. It either reduces their tax liability, thus putting more money in their take-home pay, or it provides an actual cash benefit. This extra money is a great help for these taxpayers, and I fully support this credit.

However, it is extremely unfair to deprive someone in this financial situation the benefits of the earned income tax credit merely because he or she has not reached the age of 25.

But this is exactly what the current law does. A taxpayer who otherwise meets the income requirements of tax credit is not eligible if he or she is under the age of 25.

Congress justified this age requirement to prevent students, who are otherwise supported by their parents, from becoming eligible for the credit. However, by focusing on the age of these students, the age requirement is depriving thousands of young Americans who are truly struggling financially from receiving the credit.

In our inner cities and our rural areas, many young men and women do not have the luxury of going to college. After graduation, they must find jobs in order to support themselves. And, unfortunately, the jobs that one can get with only a high school diploma are not paying a living wage.

My bill corrects the problem of the earned income tax credit by simply reducing the minimum age requirement to 21 years of age.

I urge my colleagues to support our young workers by supporting H.R. 2898.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN W. BURKHART:
CHAMPION FOR INCREASED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that education is the great equalizer. No one can deny that an education unlocks the doors of opportunity. Few have unlocked and held open the doors of higher education more than John W. Burkhart of Indianapolis, Indiana. Burkhart, who died in Indianapolis last month, was a true pioneer in opening up access to higher education.

In 1960—five years before the Federal student loan program was established as part of the Federal Higher Education Act—John Burkhart organized USA Funds to privately guarantee student loans. USA Funds later became USA Group, which is now the nation's largest student loan guarantor and administrator. Through USA Funds' and USA Group's loan guarantees, students who would normally be unable to afford high education, can now receive a higher education on credit. The concept of “college on credit,” pioneered by Burkhart and other visionaries like him, has spurred a substantial increase in the number of Americans with access to higher education. In 1965, only 1.5 million students entered institutions of higher education. That number increased to an impressive 2.2 million students by 1996. Certainly there are a variety of factors which contribute to such an increase, but the efforts of John Burkhart in fostering educational opportunity cannot be discounted.